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Commissioners Street Blue Box
Materials Recovery Facility





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BLUE BOX RECYCLING

COMMISSIONERS STREET BLUE BOX MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

A Material Recovery Facility (MRF) is a plant that sorts recyclable materials for end markets. Once materials are sorted by type, they are baled and/or loaded for transport to end markets.

What materials are sorted at the new facility?

The Commissioners Street Blue Box MRF sorts fully commingled recyclables collected from the Metro Toronto Blue Box Program - plastics (PET and HDPE), metal, aluminum and glass (clear and coloured) containers. Newsprint, cardboard, telephone books and magazines are processed by our contractor, Quebec and Ontario Recycling (Q&O), at 95 Commissioners Street.

How much material does the facility process?

The facility is able to sort up to 25,000 tonnes of recyclable materials each year (based on a two shift operation).

Are there any other Blue Box MRFs in Metro Toronto?

Our contractor Q&O processes Metropolitan Toronto's Blue Box fibre recyclables at two locations - 95 Commissioners Street in Toronto and Metro's Dufferin Transfer Station in North York. In addition to fibre materials, the facility at 95 Commissioners Street also processes a limited amount of partially commingled container materials such as plastic bottles, jugs and aluminum and steel containers.

Who designed the Commissioner Street facility?

The engineering firm hired for the project by Metropolitan Toronto was R. Cave and Associates. They oversaw the construction of the facility by New England CRInc. who used German-made Bezner technology and equipment.

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Who is operating the facility?

The Commissioners Street facility is operated by New England CRInc. under a two-year contract with Metropolitan Toronto. Approximately 30 new jobs have been created by the facility.

Are there any environmental impacts?

A MRF is operated much the same way as a commercial warehouse. As a result, the only environmental impacts are truck traffic and noise. To reduce the noise impact, a sound barrier wall is being erected on the north side of the facility.

What was the original use of the Commissioners Street site?

In 1955 the Commissioners Street facility opened as a municipal refuse incinerator. Its capacity was approximately 550 tonnes per 24 hour day. New furnaces and air pollution control devices were installed in the mid-70s. This increased the incinerator's capacity to 750 tonnes per 24 hour day.

Due to public concern over emissions levels, the incinerator was shutdown in July 1988. After closure, the site has been used as a depot and collection site for recycling initiatives. Alongside the new MRF operations, the former incinerator building is being converted for use as a waste transfer station.



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